

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant notes that the remarks and amendments made by this paper are consistent with the proposals presented during the telephone call of August 10, 2007.

By this paper, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-11, and 13-14 have been amended and no claims have been added or cancelled, such that claims 1-43 remain pending, of which claims 1, 9, 19, 27, and 37 are the only independent claims at issue.

The Final Office Action, mailed July 12, 2007, considered and rejected claims 1-43 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Van Leersum (US 2003/0174168), hereinafter Van Leersum.¹

As recited in the claims, the present invention is generally directed to systems and methods for centrally managing user interface state information for the visual user interface development tool such that behavior for one or more user interface components or the visual user interface tool itself may be defined dynamically at development time. Claim 1 for example recites a method where a message is generated within the visual user interface development tool. The message is sent to a centralized extensible behavior stack to be checked against one or more behaviors to use in processing the message. The behavior stack is then checked for currently available behaviors for processing messages to determine if a behavior is available. If a behavior is found to be available, the message is passed to the available behavior for processing resulting in a dynamically defined behavior of an interface.

Claim 9 is directed to a corresponding computer program product for implementing a method similar to the method of claim 1. Claim 19 is directed to another similar method to the method recited in claim 1, but uses functional 'step for' language instead of acts. Claim 27 is directed to a computer program product for implementing a method similar to the method of claim 19. Finally, claim 37 is directed to another computer program product wherein several components related to the implementation of the invention (e.g., behavior stack, extensible collection, and message router) are defined in terms of computer-executable instructions.

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

It will be noted that all of the claims were rejected by a single reference, Van Leersum. Van Leersum discloses embodiments for providing a GUI representation of relationships between sets of resources in a data processing system. In the representation of the resources, a mouse handling routine is disclosed that is used to position a glyph in another position on the screen. Van Leersum further describes a process for displaying or hiding the glyphs depending on if they are attached or hidden.

While Van Leersum is directed to an embodiment that receives mouse inputs, it fails to teach many of the limitations present in the current invention. For instance, Van Leersum does not take place in a development environment and there is no equivalent behavior stack that is extensible for easy addition of new behavior by a developer. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Van Leersum fails to teach or suggest the limitation present in the claims.

Van Leersum is clearly described within the disclosure as taking place in a data processing environment. As such, the program is not in the development phase. Instead the program has already been developed and is running. The described mouse inputs in the GUI environment are simply manipulating glyphs that have already been defined by the application. The glyphs and there associated behaviors have been predetermined because the application has already been developed.

The current embodiments require the use of a centralized extensible stack where new behaviors can be updated. As a result, third party developers can easily create new behaviors and push them onto the stack for use in the development of an application. The cited art of Van Leersum contains no such stack. The responses to the mouse action described in paragraph 56 of Van Leersum describe behaviors that are fixed. When clicking and dragging the GUI representation of the resources the result will always be the same because the behavior is coded in place. This is contrasted with the current invention where the result will vary depending on what behavior is on the stack. A newly developed behavior can be pushed onto the stack relatively easily using the invention. Van Leersum, on the other hand, would require the developers to redevelop the program if a new behavior were desired by an end user.

For at least these reasons, as well as the others presented to the Examiner over the phone, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending independent claims are distinguished from the

cited art of record and that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at 801-533-9800.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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